

YOU CAN TRANSFORM A LIFE TODAY!



## Thriving Beyond Original Expectations

### *The Story of Nicholas and Thomas*

#### **TWINS, NICHOLAS AND THOMAS, HAD ALREADY EXPERIENCED MORE PAIN AND LOSS THAN MOST OF US DO IN A LIFETIME.**

Before becoming eligible for adoption at age seven-years old, the boys had spent four years in and out of foster care, without a stable, comfortable place to call home. Yet, this lively duo were endearing, friendly and polite.

Despite the wonderful qualities that both boys possessed, not many people were willing to accommodate the twins' needs. They spent an additional two years in foster care.

Thomas (on the right), affectionately called "Tigger", was diagnosed as having Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and was often a very serious but an angelic, loving and sweet little boy who craved complete attention. He needed structure and clear guidelines.

Nicholas, at that time called "Nicky-pooh," was affectionate, loved to laugh and playfully tease, and functioned best with routine and familiar things. Nicholas' behavior problems were diagnosed as stemming from his ADHD, short attention span, and delays in speech and fine motor skills.

Adopt America Network (AAN) found Dawn and Richard who for years had wanted to adopt special needs children. Dawn and Richard offered a loving, attentive family including Scooby- the dog, and Bert – the bunny, with forts, a play center,

and aunts and uncles a few houses away. They opened their home to the then nine-year old twins; the adoption was finalized in 2004 when the twins were ten-years old. The boys now celebrate two birthdays – in their birth month and in December when they were officially adopted!

Initially their parents were told that the boys would most likely not go beyond fourth or fifth grade. With the loving attention of two devoted parents, it became apparent that Nicholas who wasn't doing well in school, was 80% deaf in both ears and required hearing aids in both ears. He also needed glasses.

For the first year after the adoption, Thomas was always getting into trouble and being disciplined in school. With loving and consistent guidance, Thomas has now learned self-control and last year had only one disciplinary action for talking out of turn.

Now, both boys excel academically (As and Bs – both are on the honor roll) and Nicholas is in fifth and Thomas is in sixth grade. This is way beyond the original expectations as explained four years ago to their now very proud parents.

The thriving twins received in 2006 a Didham Educational Grant from AAN for a computer to help Nicholas with school work since he has a hard time putting things on paper, and a set of drums for Thomas to tap into his musical skills and also provide a positive outlet for energy and emotions.

Because of the generosity of donors, the tireless work of the staff and volunteers of Adopt America Network and the dedication and love of adoptive parents like Dawn and Richard, children like Nicholas and Thomas, get the second chance they deserve so that they can reach their full potential.

#### **How You Can Help**

Adopt America Network has helped place over 3,500 children with loving families in the last 25 years – 909 in the last 4 years without charging fees to families. You can help in two ways:

- Share your love, talents and time by adopting a child and giving them a family of their own to whom they belong.
- Donate to Adopt America Network so that we may help more waiting children find their forever family that they deserve.

**Adopt America Network**  
Special Children Deserve Special Families



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Please visit [www.adoptamericanetwork.org](http://www.adoptamericanetwork.org) to learn more about the 129,000 children who through no fault of their own have been abused, abandoned or neglected. They wait on average over 3 years in the U.S. foster care system for someone to pick them out and cherish them.